

(continued from back panel)

Many of the laws given in Kedoshim are iterated elsewhere, say, in the Mishpatim portion of Exodus or in the Re'eh and Shofetim sections of Deuteronomy. In Mishpatim we are to follow the laws out of gratitude to God who freed us and gave us laws and a political order to preserve our freedom. In Deuteronomy, we are told to keep God's laws out of devotion to His loyalty to us, seeking His blessing and reward, and avoiding punishment. But in Leviticus we are bidden to do the commandments in order to seek God's goodwill. To do that, we must do that which accords with God's very nature, to be holy because God Himself is Holy, and to abhor what God Himself abhors. A kind of perfectionistic attention to details of proper aesthetics, etiquette, attitude, and intent are key. The seeking of God's goodwill commands us to go far beyond the letter of what any particular law could mandate, and yet we learn from the sacrificial context how basic and foundational it is. Perhaps Rashi's medical metaphor is appropriate after all, because in tying all laws to the sacrifice of an animal, a complex organism, we see how all of the laws of the Torah are supposed to fit into an organic whole. All of our actions must seek, as Proverbs 3:4 says, to "find favor and good repute in the eyes of God and man."

Morning Minyan Just Got Even Better!

Morning minyan participants will be treated to a breakfast of champions (cereal and milk). Jumpstart your day by nourishing your body and soul and help make this minyan strengthening initiative a success. To sponsor, go to shearithisrael.org/cereal.

Parnas Office Hours

Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org.

Our Next Public Tour is:
Wednesday, May 10 at 11:00 am

Life and Death Hang in the Delicate Balance of Favor **Rabbi Ira Rohde, Hazzan**

The double portion of the Torah read this week contains the widest variety of laws listed anywhere. But Leviticus brings a much more intensifying perspective to laws found elsewhere. It's not merely, to paraphrase Rashi's parable at the beginning of our parasha, that a patient is more likely to take the advice of a doctor who can point to an example of someone who died as the result of ignoring his prescriptions. It's not merely that Nadab and Abihu have died, but rather, in an existentialist sense, precisely because they have died for an offence so trifling. According to Rashi, the peshat interpretation is that Nadab and Abihu died simply because their offering was unauthorized and unbidden. It not only failed to curry favor and propitiate God; it led to the most vehement and violent rejection of the offerants. Sacrifice must above all else be a matter of beseeching God's goodwill. Any undue attempt to influence the Divine smacks of sorcery and theurgy, of trying to force God's hand. There is a fine distinction between Queen Esther, who acknowledges her place and delicately seeks the King's favor, and Haman, who behind the king's back boasts of his power to tip the king's hand. But that keeping that delicate distinction, that fine balance, is literally a matter of life and death: That's a lesson we learn most especially from the sacrificial system, where the connections between life and death, growth and corruption must be ever so carefully and delicately handled. In order to have fresh, life-giving meat, man must slaughter and kill, keep the meat from contamination, cook and store his food. It is a life-giving process fraught with the dangers of death, and the only way for man to avoid those dangers is to acknowledge and admit his own lowly place in this: Life, strength, and growth are gratis gifts bestowed by God which man does not own, control, or deserve. Clean, freshly-slaughtered meat gives life; carrion, unclean and putrid meat brings death. Some forms of death and blood are life-giving and purifying; others bring on defilement, disease, and further death.

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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Ahare Moth-Kedoshim

May 5-6, 2017

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 480 ; Haftarah p. 511
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 584 ; Haftarah p. 1168

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:39 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Z. Edinger delivers a seminar on the topic " **סוד ואמת נפגשו** Where Truth and Kindness Meet: The *Hebra Hased vaAmet*, a Living History of Caring for the Dead"

TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room

JR. CONGREGATION WITH TORAH READING | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Co-sponsored by the Hebra Hased Va'Amet and by Juan Mesa-Freydell in honor of Zachary Edinger upon his recent engagement*

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Ira Rohde on the topic "Ironies of Abot" | 6:35 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:35 pm

HABDALAH | 8:38 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM, Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM
Evenings (Minhah & Arbit): Sunday– Thursday: 6:30 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Special Lecture Sponsored by The Hebra Hased vaAmet This Shabbat, May 6 , Following Morning Services

This week's seminar is sponsored by the Hebra Hased vaAmet. The Hebra has a long history of service to our congregation. The Hebra continues to provide essential support for the synagogue and community during times of need. To learn more about the Hebra or to become a member please speak with Jack Daar or Zachary Edinger.

We wish Rabbi Soloveichik and the participants on this Shabbat's Washington DC/ Monticello trip a wonderful time as they learn, celebrate and make history. We look forward to hearing about their adventure when they return!



Carvalho's Journey Film Screening Followed by a Talk-Back Session with Filmmaker, Steve Rivo, Featured Historian, Arlene Hirschfelder, Moderated by Sexton, Z. Edinger Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 pm

Screened in the 2016 NY Jewish Film Festival to critical acclaim, Carvalho's Journey tells the amazing story of Solomon Nunes Carvalho (1815-1897), an observant Sephardic Jew of Portuguese descent. Born in Charleston, SC, Carvalho later moved to Philadelphia, as well as New York City (and is buried in our cemetery). The film chronicles his life as a groundbreaking adventurer, portrait painter, and photographer. \$5 members/\$8 non-members.

Register at shearithisrael.org/Carvalho

Annual Pre-Memorial Day Service: Honoring Veterans of the Revolution and Members of the Armed Forces Held at the Chatham Square Cemetery 55 St. James Place

Sunday, May 21 | 10:30 am

Head down to Chatham Square Cemetery in Chinatown to honor members of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary War. Our historic ceremony and Color Guard is a special Shearith Israel tradition and is open to military veterans, clergy, and members of the community. Join us to place American flags at the graves of our twenty-two veteran congregants. Transportation from and back to Shearith Israel is available. To register and sign up for transportation, go to shearithisrael.org/chatham-square-service.

Shabuot Public Lecture Delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik Tuesday, May 30, 11:00 PM

Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver another intriguing lecture at what has become a prime Shabuot learning destination on the Upper West Side. After the talk, guests are encouraged to enjoy some cheesecake! To sponsor go to shearithisrael.org/shabuot-public-lecture



Girls Megillat Ruth Reading Wednesday, May 31 | 11:30 am

On the First Day of Shabuot, after musaf, the girls of the synagogue chant the Book of Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary. Any girl (teens included) who can read Hebrew and wants to participate should contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com. Afterwards, the congregation joins together for a Kiddush in the their honor. To co-sponsor the Kiddush, go to shearithisrael.org/girls-book-ruth-reading.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

Sunday

◇ **Saadiyah Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimon den Hollander | 8:45 am

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday

◇ **Habruta (Paired) Learning** | 5:15 pm - 7:15 pm | Before and after evening services, Rabbi Chaim Yanetz and rabbinical students from YU are available in the Elias Room to study in *habruta* with congregants of all ages.

Tuesday

◇ **Minyan Class and Breakfast** | Following Morning Services | Sponsored by Chaim Katzap

◇ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought - A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Debby Neumark*

◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Sanhedrin** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 7pm

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass
To find out when your favorite class is held, canceled or for special topics, go to shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists to select which emails you'd like to receive.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences to Margo Weaker Suckewer on the passing of her mother, Anne Weaker.

Weekday Toddler Summer 'Camp'

June 20- August 17

Tuesdays and Thursday | 9:30-11:30 am

For children aged 16-33 months.

Includes outdoor play and a wading pool. Adult caregiver presence is

required. Register online at

shearithisrael.org/summer-toddler-camp.